

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1, 2 and 18 are amended. Claims 1-4, 6-19, and 21-29 are pending.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, at page 3, numbered paragraph 5, claims 1-4, 6-10, 18, 19, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,870,905 to Imamura et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,092,400 to Sumner et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed because the combination of the teachings of Imamura and Sumner does not suggest:

an outside water supply pipe to provide wash water from outside the drum washing machine to the drum washing machine;...

a water supplier directly receiving outside wash water from the outside water supply pipe, the water supplier including at least a first pipe supplying the wash water directly from the first pipe into the water tub and a second pipe supplying the wash water directly from the second pipe into the rotary drum; [and]

a circulation pipe to provide wash water contained in the water tub into the rotary drum,

as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Imamura shows in Fig. 1 and discusses a water supply valve 9 that controls the supply of water into the washing tub directly, which then seeps into the spin basket 3. Imamura further discusses that the washing water is transmitted to the spin basket 3 in the washing tub 2 from the circulation pipe 12.

Imamura does not discuss or suggest that a water supplier that directly receives outside wash water from an outside water supply pipe including a first pipe supplying wash water directly from the first pipe into the water tub and a second pipe supplying the wash water directly from the second pipe into the rotary drum. Further, Imamura does not discuss or suggest a circulation pipe, that is distinct from the second pipe that supplies wash water directly into the rotary drum, that provides wash water contained in the water tub into the rotary drum.

In Imamura, the outside water supply pipe corresponds to the pipe that is connected to the water supply valve 9, which provides outside water into the washing tub directly. Further,

Imamura discusses only a circulation pipe 12, which provides wash water contained in water tub into the rotary drum.

However, Imamura does not suggest that the water supply pipe connected to the water supply valve 9 is connected to a water supplier that directly receives the outside water and includes a first pipe that directly supplies water to the water tub and a second pipe that directly supplies water to the rotary drum. In addition, while the circulation pipe 12 in Imamura supplies water from the water tub directly into the rotary drum, the circulation pipe 12 in Imamura is distinct from a second pipe of a water supplier directly receiving water from an outside water supply pipe and supplying the wash water directly from the second pipe into the rotary drum.

Sumner fails to make up for the deficiencies in Imamura. Further, the motivation cited by the Examiner does not suggest why one of ordinary skill in the art would combine an inclined rotary drum with perforation holes of Sumner with a washing machine including a water supply inlet that supplies water only directly into a water tub of Imamura.

Therefore, as the combination of the teachings of Imamura and Sumner does not suggest "an outside water supply pipe to provide wash water from outside the drum washing machine to the drum washing machine;... a water supplier directly receiving outside wash water from the outside water supply pipe, the water supplier including at least a first pipe supplying the wash water directly from the first pipe into the water tub and a second pipe supplying the wash water directly from the second pipe into the rotary drum; [and] a circulation pipe to provide wash water contained in the water tub into the rotary drum," as recited in amended independent claim 1, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, the combination of the teachings of Imamura and Sumner does not suggest "an outside water supply pipe to provide wash water from outside the drum washing machine to the drum washing machine; a water supplier directly receiving outside wash water from the outside water supply pipe, the water supplier including at least a first pipe supplying the wash water directly from the first pipe into the water tub and a second pipe supplying the wash water directly from the second pipe into the rotary drum; [and] a circulator including a circulation pipe to circulate the wash water and supply the wash water from the water tub to the rotary drum," as recited in amended independent claim 18. Therefore, claim 18 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 6-10, 19, and 21 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 18 and include all the features of their respective independent claims, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. For example, claim 9 recites, "a water temperature sensor to detect temperature of the wash water contained in the water tub, wherein the controller controls the heater to heat the contained wash water in stages until the water temperature detected by the water temperature sensor reaches a set temperature." Imamura does not discuss or suggest that the contained wash water is in stages until a water temperature detected by the water temperature sensor reaches a set temperature. Therefore, claims 2-4, 6-10, 19 and 21 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, at page 3, numbered paragraph 6, claims 11 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Imamura in view of Sumner, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,122,843 to Noguchi et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 18, the combination of the teachings of Imamura and Sumner does not suggest all the features of claims 1 and 18. Noguchi fails to make up for the deficiencies in Imamura and Sumner. Therefore, claims 1 and 18 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon.

Claims 11 and 22-24 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 18 and include all the features of their respective independent claims, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. For example, claim 11 recites "a storage unit to store information about the set temperature corresponding to the washing course, wherein the controller recognizes the set temperature by searching the storage unit." Therefore, claims 11 and 22-24 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2 and 18 have been amended. Claims 1-4, 6-19, and 21-29 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 16, 2008

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